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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/826,801

Examiner

Tae W. Kim

Applicant(s)

CUELLAR ET AL.

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on April 6, 2006 and the telephone interview on June 14, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 14, 16, 18-35 and 39-54.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>6/14/06</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the amendment filed April 6, 2006.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Gerald P. Parsons (24486) on 6/14/2006. The examiners amendment was required in order to remove improper dependencies.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 18: (Currently amended) The memory system of claim ~~[[17]]~~16, wherein the pattern of the first set of contacts is arranged in accordance with a published memory card standard and the second set of contacts is arranged in accordance with a published USB connector standard.

Claim 22: (Currently amended) The memory system of claim ~~[[1 7]]~~16, wherein the sleeve contains wall segments adjacent the open portion of the end that defines the second position of the sleeve relative to the circuit card.

Claim 24: (Currently amended) The memory system of claim ~~[[17]]~~16, wherein an end of the sleeve opposite to the end containing the open portion includes a stop that defines the first position of the sleeve relative to the circuit card.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 14, 16, 18-35, and 39-54 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to claims 14, 25, 39, 41, 42, and 46, the prior art or record, taken alone or in combination, fails to teach or fairly suggest at least a memory card system comprising: an enclosed electronic circuit card having first and second sets of electrical contacts positioned on outside surface areas thereof with different contact patterns, the first and second sets of electrical contacts being spaced apart a distance in one direction along the card, a re-programmable non-volatile memory system within the card and operably connected to transfer data between the memory and outside of the card through either of the first or second sets of contacts without use of the other, and a sleeve surrounding the card in a manner to be slid by hand along a linear path relative to the card between a first position exposing the first set of contacts while overlying the second set of contacts or covering all of the card within the sleeve under at least one wall and second position exposing the second sets of contacts while covering the first set of contacts, wherein the sleeve and the card have relative dimensions so that the card fits within a footprint of the sleeve when the sleeve is in the first position, and a plurality of opening through the wall of the sleeve in positions that expose the second set of contacts therethrough when the card is in the first position, and wherein the first set of contacts is exposed through the openings of the sleeve wall when the card is in the first position and covered by the sleeve when the card is in the second position.

With respect to claims 16, 18-24, 26-35, 40, and 43-45, claims are allowed for being dependent on the allowed independent claims.

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tae W. Kim whose telephone number is (571)272-5971. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 7AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on 571)272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Tae W. Kim
Art Unit 2876
Patent Examiner

TWK



**THIEN M. LE
PRIMARY EXAMINER**